

# watershedfocus

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

Spring 2001

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## New Director and Assistant Director Appointed to DWM

In February, Mary T. Sheil was appointed to the position of the Director of the Division of Watershed Management and Debra Hammond to the new position of DWM Assistant Director.

Mary T. Sheil has served as the Director of Legislative Affairs for the DEP since 1993. She previously served as the Department's Senior Policy Analyst coordinating various projects such as the first Mercury Emissions Task Force and the Passaic Flood Control Project. From 1988 to 1991 she served as the Deputy Director of the Division of Solid Waste Management. From 1980 to 1988 she served as the State's first Administrator of the NJ Office of Recycling. Working with an advisory committee, she developed and implemented the first State Recycling Plan and Act, and subsequently developed the State Mandatory Recycling Act and Program. From 1977 to 1980, Sheil was a supervisor and energy specialist with the NJ Department of Energy. Prior to 1977, she served as a land use planner with Rutgers University and an educator in NJ, NY and CA school systems. She is a licensed professional planner. Sheil graduated from Queens College in New York, and has a Masters Degree in City and Regional Planning and an MBA from Rutgers University.

Debra Hammond joined the DEP in 1978 after graduating from Cook College, Rutgers University with a degree in Environmental Science. While she has worked in a variety of Departmental water programs, Hammond started her

(New Appointments continued on page 2)



**Celebrate Watershed Awareness Month.**  
**Find out what you can do.**  
**See page 6.**


## watershedfocus

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## New Appointments

(continued from page 1)

career in Water Quality Planning and Management, where she conducted water quality monitoring and analyses, developed 305(b) Water Quality Inventory reports, and participated in the Clean Lakes Program. In 1985, Hammond joined the NJPDES program to develop the "polluter pays" fee program. While with the NJPDES program she has done permit administrative work, fee assessment and collection, and computer system development (including NJEMS). She has been the Chief of the Bureau for Point Source Permitting - Region 2 since 1996. Hammond also serves as the Department's NEPPS Water Committee Co-chair. Hammond will be assigned to watershed management functions, while Administrator Jim Mumman retains his management responsibilities over the Water Monitoring Management element of DWM.

Through these appointments and the allocation of even greater resources to the watershed management effort the DEP will be able to:

- 1) vigorously advance Watershed Management in all 20 Watershed Management Areas;
- 2) maintain scheduled development of TMDLs including air deposition assessments;
- 3) continue to enhance monitoring and assessment capabilities to address water resource stressors on a watershed basis; and
- 4) implement "Action Now" nonpoint source control projects at a faster pace and on a broader scale than ever before. All of these activities, in close coordination with DEP's other water programs, and its air and land management programs, will move the Department closer to achieving its Clean and Plentiful Water goals.

### New Jersey's 5 Water Regions and 20 Watershed Management Areas

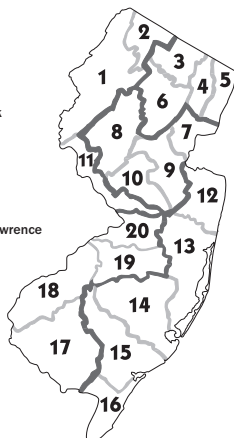
**Northwest**  
(609) 633-3812  
1. Upper Delaware  
2. Walkill  
11. Central Delaware

**Northeast**  
(609) 633-1179  
3. Pompton, Pequannock,  
Wanaque, Ramapo  
4. Lower Passaic, Saddle  
5. Hackensack, Hudson, Pascack  
6. Upper & Middle Passaic,  
Whippany, Rockaway

**Raritan**  
(609) 633-7020  
7. Arthur Kill  
8. North & South Branch Raritan  
9. Lower Raritan, South River, Lawrence  
10. Millstone

**Atlantic Coastal**  
(609) 984-6888  
12. Monmouth  
13. Barnegat Bay  
14. Mullica  
15. Great Egg Harbor  
16. Cape May

**Lower Delaware**  
(609) 633-1441  
17. Maurice, Salem, Cohansey  
18. Lower Delaware  
19. Rancocas  
20. Assiscunk, Crosswicks, Doctors



## New Raritan Chief Appointed

In March, Kerry Kirk Pflugh was appointed as Chief of the Raritan Bureau. Pflugh has been a Research Scientist in the Division of Science, Research and Technology, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for the past thirteen years. She holds a master of Science degree from the University of Wisconsin at Madison in Agricultural Journalism and Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Communication from Cook College-Rutgers University.

Pflugh's area of expertise has been strategic communication planning focusing on citizen participation in environmental management decision-making. Pflugh has been involved in fish consumption advisory projects for the past nine years. She developed and coordinated a community-based outreach and education program on fish consumption advisories, which received an Urban Hometown River Award from American Rivers for the category of education. She has conducted research on knowledge, awareness and consumption patterns of urban anglers, which has been published in several journals. Her research also includes perception of risk related to fish consumption advisories in the Latino community. In addition, she has created an award winning Harbor Estuary Watershed Education/Urban Fishing program for elementary school students to teach them about fish consumption advisories, watershed and other water-related issues.

## **FREE WATERSHED ASSEMBLY PROGRAM AVAILABLE FEATURING MISS NEW JERSEY 2000**

*by Eileen Thornton, Division of Watershed Management, Northwest Bureau*

"NJDEP's Division of Watershed Management is offering its special *Keepers of the Watershed* Program for interactive assembly programs at New Jersey's elementary schools or other educational institutions as part of its outreach and educational efforts," announced NJDEP Commissioner Robert C. Shinn Jr. "Miss New Jersey 2000, Jill Horner, will present this captivating environmental education program for students."

Commissioner Shinn emphasized, "We are fortunate to have such an enthusiastic and strong advocate and supporter of watershed management approach to lead these presentations. Her youthful spirit and experiences can relate well to students of elementary school age."

Mary T. Sheil, Director of NJDEP's Division of Watershed Management, added "We welcome this special partnership between NJDEP and the Miss New Jersey Education Foundation. We believe that it is important to teach young students about protecting our state's precious water resources."

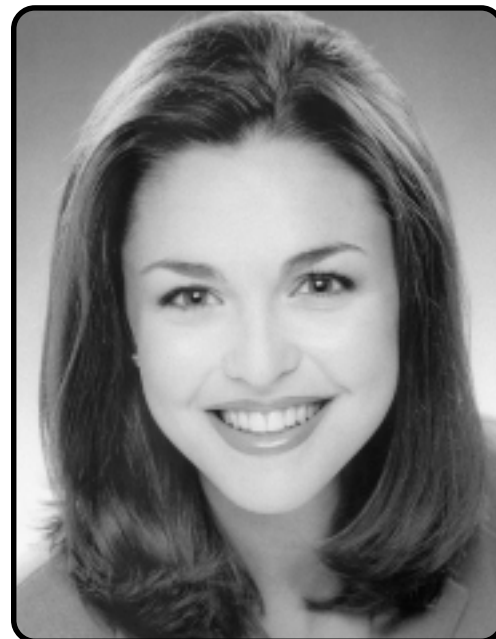
The *Keepers of the Watershed* Program has been designed for large assembly type audiences of 100 or more students in elementary schools. Teachers will receive information and materials to use in their classroom following the assembly program. The program is offered on a first come, first serve basis.

During Horner's presentation, she will cover topics such as water cycle and water flow, watersheds and nonpoint source pollution.

Horner was inspired to develop the *Keepers of the Earth* Program from her experiences in Russia as an exchange student. The deplorable environmental conditions in Russia increased her awareness of the need to continually work to improve the environmental conditions in the United States.

NJDEP invited her to become a partner in its efforts to send a strong message on watershed management to young students. "What we can do in our daily lives to protect our waterways and their watersheds," noted Horner. The lesson of this program is help keep the water clean and to prevent water pollution.

Officials at elementary schools or educational institutions should contact Mary Ann Husar, NJDEP's Division of Watershed Management, at 609-292-2113 to schedule an appointment.



***In partnership with DEP and Miss NJ  
Education Foundation, free watershed  
assembly programs are available  
for New Jersey's schools.  
(Miss New Jersey 2000 - Jill Horner)***

## Order Free Watershed Awareness Place Mats

*by Trish Ingelido, Division of Watershed Management, Lower Delaware Bureau*

NJDEP's Division of Watershed Management has partnered with the Walt Whitman Cultural Arts Center's Biz-Arts Program to produce watershed place mats. These place mats are being distributed free of charge for use in New Jersey restaurants during Memorial Day Weekend as part of the state's observance of Watershed Awareness Month. May is Watershed Awareness Month in New Jersey.

Assistant Director Debra Hammond said, "In honor of Watershed Awareness Month, these exciting regional place mats are being offered to restaurants throughout the state providing watershed information to New Jersey's residents."

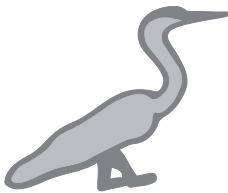
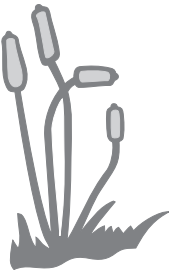
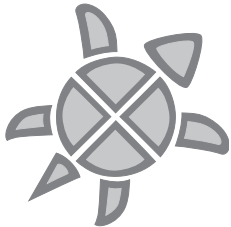
Designed by students of the Biz-Arts program, these full color 11" X 17" place mats include original student artwork, regional maps with local information on watersheds and tips on what residents can do to protect their local waterways and their watersheds. If you own or manage a restaurant in New Jersey, please join our partnership by using these place mats in your restaurant during Memorial Day weekend (May 24-26).

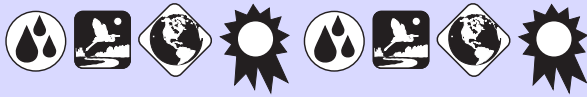
Place mats will be available on a first come, first serve basis in bunches of 500 for each participating restaurant. An example of the place mat will be available on our website at [www.state.nj.us/dep/watershedmgt](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/watershedmgt).

The Walt Whitman Cultural Center, located in Camden City, is a community based, literary, performing and visual arts center whose mission is to share outstanding cultural experiences with its local community and those beyond. The Biz-Arts program, the center's after school outreach program, seeks to teach valuable business skills to Camden City middle and high school students ages 12 and up through the prism of creative arts. Biz-Arts is the only program of its kind in the region fusing arts and business, therefore creating a meaningful educational experience.

Each semester the Biz-Arts program partners with a local entity to develop outreach materials. This semester the program has partnered with the NJDEP Division of Watershed Management to produce educational information about watersheds and nonpoint source pollution in New Jersey. The product of this partnership is colorful regional watershed place mats.

If you would like to order place mats for your restaurant or if you have questions, please call Trish Ingelido with the Division of Watershed Management at 609-292-0502.





## **DWM EXPANDS AWARDS PROGRAM**

*by Eileen Thornton,  
Division of Watershed Management, Northwest Bureau*

NJDEP's Division of Watershed Management will announce its new plans for the Second Annual Awards Program in May during the Observance of Watershed Awareness Month.

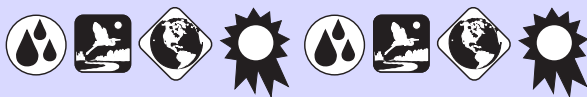
Mary T. Sheil, DWM Director, noted "that this recognition program was very successful during its inaugural year. Based on these positive and strong results, DWM wanted to continue sponsoring this worthwhile activity."

"We were so impressed that the First Annual Awards Program honorees representing business, education, municipalities and watershed groups were excellent examples of the tremendous work being done in this area by segments of our watershed community. Their accomplishments which can be duplicated across our state, offer inspiration, direction and leadership to other segments of our watershed community" added Sheil.

The awards program was established last year to recognize, thank and encourage the watershed community for their actions and achievements which reflect commitment, responsibility and leadership to sustain and safeguard the health of our state's waterways.

As Sheil emphasized, "An important criteria of the recognition program is to have the nominee be an exceptional example of the watershed management approach."

Individuals interested in knowing more information about the Second Annual Awards Program should contact Eileen P. Thornton, Awards Coordinator. She may be reached by phone at 609-633-0634, by fax at 609-292-06827 or by e-mail at [ethornto@dep.state.nj.us](mailto:ethornto@dep.state.nj.us)



## **Watershed Management Launches into Action for the Central Delaware Tributaries**

*by Jill Peach, Division of Watershed Management, Northwest Bureau*

On Tuesday February 27, 2001 Watershed Management Area 11 or the Central Delaware Tributaries launched into action by holding its kickoff meeting for watershed management at Thomas Edison State College in Trenton. The meeting was primarily focused on providing attendees an overview of the Watershed Planning process, explaining the roles of the Public Advisory Committee and the Technical Advisory Committee as well as a characterization of the existing conditions within this management area.

Throughout the winter months, the Regional Planning Partnership along with their partners, were busy compiling information on the watershed and planning for the first meeting of all the stakeholders within this management area. The partners in this process include the DEP Division of Watershed Management, Isles, Inc., the Hunterdon and Mercer Soil Conservation Districts, the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions and the Delaware River Basin Commission.

On September 29, 2000, DEP signed a two-year contract with the Regional Planning Partnership to develop a comprehensive watershed management plan for the Central Delaware Tributaries (WMA 11). This area is approximately 272 square miles and includes 24 municipalities in Hunterdon, Mercer and Monmouth Counties. Major waterways within this region include: Assunpink Creek, Hahokake Creek, Harihokake Creek, Nishisakawick Creek, Locatong Creek, Wickecheoke Creek, Alexauken Creek, Moore Creek and Jacobs Creek.

If you are interested in becoming involved, please contact Jill Peach at 609-292-9247.

*See map on page 12 (back cover).*



# MAY IS WATERSHED AWARENESS MONTH

## ***What is a Watershed?***

A watershed is the area of land that drains into a body of water such as a river, lake, stream or bay. It is separated from other systems by high points in the area such as hills or slopes. It includes not only the waterway itself but also the entire land area that drains to it. For example, the watershed of a lake would include not only the streams entering the lake but also the land area that drains into those streams and eventually the lake. Drainage basins generally refer to large watersheds that encompass the watersheds of many smaller river and streams.



**FIND OUT WHAT  
WATERWAY YOU  
LIVE NEAR.  
WHERE DOES  
YOUR WATER  
COME FROM?**



**PLANT A  
TREE.  
THEY TAKE  
POLLUTANTS  
OUT OF  
GROUND WATER.  
PROVIDE  
SHADE AND  
CLEAN THE AIR.**

## ***Watershed Complications***

Humans have an impact on the watershed in a number of ways. One way people influence watersheds is by changing where stormwater flows. By changing the contour of the land and adding stormwater systems, people change how and where the water goes. The storm drains and catch basins you see along the sidewalks and streets lead to a system of underground pipes that drain directly to local waterways. So where the melted snowflake from your sidewalk goes may be down the storm drain through stormwater pipes and out to the local river.

Another way people affect a watershed is by adding potential pollution sources to the watershed. The type of pollutant a rain droplet might pick up on its way through a watershed depends in part on how the land it travels through is used. How the land in a watershed is used by people, whether it is farms, houses or shopping centers, has a direct impact on the water quality of the watershed. When it rains, stormwater carries with it the effects of human activities as it drains off the land into the local waterway. As rain washes over a parking lot, it might pick up litter, road salt and motor oil and carry these pollutants to a local stream. On a farm, rain might wash fertilizers and soil into a pond. Snow melt might wash fertilizers and pesticides from a suburban lawn.

To reduce this pollution of stormwater, it's important to practice pollution prevention. That means preventing pollution at the source, recycling motor oil instead of pouring it onto the street, cleaning up after pets, putting trash into containers rather than littering or reducing our use of fertilizers, pesticides and deicers.

## ***Water Conservation***

Conserving water through efficient water use can help prevent pollution. Using less water reduces the runoff of agricultural pollutants pesticides and fertilizers. Diverting less water from waterways or aquifers leaves more water in streams or lakes, protecting existing ecosystems such as wetlands (which absorb certain types of pollution) and water supplies.

Water conservation can also save money by reducing pumping and treatment costs both before water reaches your home and after it leaves. Reduced water use may extend the life of existing sewage treatment facilities. It can also eliminate the need to develop a new water supply. New wells and reservoirs are expensive and time consuming to locate and build.

# MAY IS WATERSHED AWARENESS MONTH

## What You Can Do for Your Watershed

Nonpoint Source Pollution, or people pollution, is a contamination of our ground water, waterways, and ocean that results from everyday activities such as fertilizing the lawn, walking pets, changing motor oil and littering. With each rainfall, pollutants generated by these activities are washed into storm drains that flow into our waterways and ocean. They also can soak into the ground contaminating the ground water below.

Each one of us, whether we know it or not, contributes to nonpoint source pollution through our daily activities. As a result, nonpoint source pollution is the BIGGEST threat to many of our ponds, creeks, lakes, wells, streams, rivers and bays, our ground water and the ocean.

The collective impact of nonpoint source pollution threatens aquatic and marine life, recreational water activities, the fishing industry, tourism and our precious drinking water resources. Ultimately, the cost becomes the burden of every New Jersey resident.

But there's good news - in our everyday activities we can stop nonpoint source pollution and keep our environment clean. Simple changes in YOUR daily lifestyle can make a tremendous difference in the quality of New Jersey's water resources. Here are just a few ways you can reduce nonpoint source pollution.

**PESTICIDES** • Use alternatives whenever possible. Many household products made to exterminate pests also are toxic to humans, animals, aquatic organisms and plants. If you do use a pesticide, follow the label directions carefully.

**HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS PRODUCTS** • Many common household products (paint thinners, moth balls, drain and oven cleaners, to name a few) contain toxic ingredients. When improperly used or discarded, these products are a threat to public health and the environment. Do not discard with the regular household trash. Use natural and less toxic alternatives whenever possible. Contact your County Solid Waste Management Office for information regarding household hazardous waste collection in your area.

**SEPTIC SYSTEMS** • An improperly working septic system can contaminate ground water and create public health problems. Avoid adding unnecessary grease, household hazardous products and solids to your septic system. Inspect your tank annually and pump it out every three to five years depending on its use.



**MOTOR OIL** • Used motor oil contains toxic chemicals that are harmful to animals, humans and fish. Do not dump used motor oil down storm drains or on the ground. Recycle all used motor oil by taking it to a local public or private recycling center.



**PET WASTE** • Animal wastes contain bacteria and viruses that can contaminate shellfish and cause the closing of bathing beaches. Pet owners should use newspaper, bags or scoopers to pick up after pets and dispose of wastes in the garbage or toilet.

**CAR WASHING** • Wash your car only when necessary. Consider using a commercial car wash that recycles its wash water. Like fertilizers, many car detergents contain phosphate. If you wash your car at home, use a non-phosphate detergent.

**FERTILIZERS** • Fertilizers contain nitrates and phosphates that, in abundance, cause blooms of algae that can lead to fish kills. Avoid the overuse of fertilizers and do not apply them before a heavy rainfall.



**LITTER** • Place litter, including cigarette butts and fast food containers, in trash receptacles. Never throw litter in streets or down storm drains. Recycle as much as possible.

## ***DWM Uses IBI Biomonitoring Technique***

*by Brian Margolis, Bureau of Freshwater & Biological Monitoring*



**A typical electrofishing operation.**

Monitoring the health of aquatic systems is a critical component of watershed management. Historically, aquatic systems were monitored primarily through chemical means. Unfortunately, chemical monitoring provides only a “snapshot” of conditions at the time of sampling and may fail to detect acute pollution events (e.g. runoff from heavy rain, spills) and non-chemical pollution (e.g. habitat alteration).

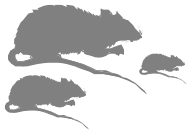
In order to address the shortcomings of chemical monitoring, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection supplements chemical monitoring with biological monitoring (sometimes referred to as biomonitoring). Biological monitoring is based on the premise that biological communities are shaped by the long-term conditions of their environment and more accurately reflect the health of an ecosystem. Currently, the Bureau of Freshwater and Biological Monitoring (BFWBM) monitors benthic macroinvertebrate assemblages (insects, worms, clams etc.) at over 800 stream stations throughout New Jersey.

Benthic macroinvertebrates are considered to be good indicators of environmental conditions. However, many scientists believe that benthic macroinvertebrate assemblages are generally reflective of short-term and local impairment. In order to assess environmental conditions on a larger spatial and temporal scale, the BFWBM recently began to supplement benthic macroinvertebrate monitoring with an index of biotic integrity (IBI). An IBI is an index that measures the health of a stream based on multiple attributes of the resident fish assemblage. Attributes of a fish assemblage measured (also referred to as metrics) include the number of individuals and species, the pollution tolerance of species present, the number of diseased or deformed individuals and the feeding structure of the fish assemblage. Each site sampled is scored based on its deviation from reference conditions (i.e. what would be found in an unimpacted stream) and classified as poor, fair, good or excellent.

During the summer of 2000, BFWBM staff sampled fish assemblages at twenty sites in northern New Jersey using an electrofishing unit that momentarily stuns fish with an electric current. Stunned fish were collected in dip nets, identified, counted and released and an IBI score was calculated for each site. The BFWBM plans to sample 80 more sites in northern New Jersey over the next four summers to establish a 100 site network.

The current IBI is only applicable to streams in northern New Jersey. However, the BFWBM is collaborating with the Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries, the Division of Science, Research and Technology and the EPA (Region 2) to develop an IBI for coastal plain streams in southern New Jersey. If you are interested in more information about the index of biotic integrity, please contact Bud Cann at 609-292-0427.





# On the Lookout for *RATs* and *BATs*

by Louisa Lubiak, NJ Watershed Ambassador, WMA 6



It's spring! The sun is shining, the weather is warm and the world is green with new growth. Nature beckons living things to get up, get out and get active. After a long, cold winter it's time for the *RATs* and *BATs* to come out of hibernation. Look for them along the brooks and streams that feed into the Passaic River, Raritan River, Hudson River, Delaware River and to the rivers along the Jersey Shore. Although generally active on weekends they may also be astir during weekdays and can be identified by their characteristic D-frame nets, kick-seines and rubber wading boots. Surprise! These kinds of *RATs* and *BATs* are not the objects of a nature study, rather, they are the ones doing the nature study.

Join us at our upcoming spring training sessions for *RATs* and *BATs*. These sessions will be given around the state and all those interested in learning more about their local waterways are encouraged to attend these volunteer monitoring workshops.

As part of basic training as volunteer ***RATs*, or River Assessment Teams**, participants will be instructed on how to do visual stream assessments, what kinds of precautions to take while doing field work, determining land use in the area and noting possible causes of nonpoint source water pollution. After the lecture, participants will go outside to practice their "ratting" skills by visually assessing a nearby stretch of river.

The ***BATs*, or Biological Assessment Teams**, program serves as a basic assessment of water quality by utilizing benthic macroinvertebrates (bottom-dwelling insect larvae) as indicator species. A survey of these creatures serves to determine the general health of the stream, taking into account both the amount and variety of organisms found. For volunteer assessment, biological sampling is preferred over direct chemical testing of the water. Different types of organisms thrive under different conditions, thus, sampling the types of organisms present gives an account of water quality over a period of time. Chemical testing only gives a "snapshot" of the water quality at the particular moment the

sample is taken. Plus, the Izaak Walton League of America's volunteer assessment protocol, used in the *BATs* program, is geared towards beginners. So, with a little training and a benthic macroinvertebrate identification key, the neophyte can immediately begin gathering data.

**Why get involved in volunteer *RATs* and *BATs*?** In recent years, the Division of Watershed Management has been paying particular attention to identifying and controlling nonpoint source (NPS) water pollution. This concern about the causes and effects of NPS water pollution has prompted the NJDEP to ask for volunteer groups to become trained in performing stream and biological assessments in their communities. Data collected by volunteers now engaged in the *RATs* and *BATs* programs are being accepted by the NJDEP for the purposes of identifying severely impaired "hot spots" and mapping general watershed health throughout the state.

To assist with public education on watershed issues, and promote the formation of volunteer assessment teams, the NJ Watershed Ambassador Program (NJWAP) was created. The NJWAP program is a joint project between AmeriCorps, a national service organization, and the NJDEP Division of Watershed Management. Watershed Ambassadors not only perform *RATs* and *BATs*, but also train and organize volunteer assessment groups. Training sessions are now being held in preparation for the Spring, Summer and Fall when volunteer groups are most active.

With the warm weather coming, enjoy the great outdoors while gathering valuable information about water quality in your vicinity. Now is the time to "get your feet wet" in the local and statewide watershed management process.

To register for the *RATs* and *BATs* programs, call Cook College Office of Continuing Professional Education at 732-932-9271. The cost for the workshops is \$25 per person including breakfast and lunch. For program information, call the Division of Watershed Management at 609-292-2113.

## Volunteer Monitoring Spring 2001 Workshops



***RATs***

**Saturday, May 5th**

@ Walnford Park, Upper Freehold  
(Lower Delaware Region)  
9 AM - 4 PM

**Saturday, May 19th**

@ Schooley's Mountain Park, Washington  
(Northeast Region)  
9 AM - 4 PM



***BATs***

**Saturday, May 12th**

@ Batsto Village, Hammonton  
(Atlantic Coastal Region)  
9 AM - 4 PM

**Saturday, June 16th**

@ Pequest Trout Hatchery, Oxford  
(Northwest Region)  
9 AM - 4 PM

## **NEW GIS COVERAGE FOR NEW JERSEY LAKES**

*by Leigh Lager,  
Water Monitoring Management*

A brand new spatially accurate Geographic Information Systems (GIS) coverage is being produced for the lakes in New Jersey using ArcView. The polygons have been extracted from the 95/97 Landuse/Landcover coverage available at the DEP. Only polygons classed as artificial or natural lakes have been selected. Names have been assigned to the polygons by various methods, the most significant being centroid matching from the lake coverage derived from USGS topographic quadrangles (spatially inaccurate). Extensive manual corrections have been made to the attribute table as well as the polygons.

The creation of the coverage is a large improvement on the one currently being used within the department. The lakes now match the 95/97 aerial photography available through the department as well as accurately represent the location of standing water bodies within the State of New Jersey.

The Bureau of Freshwater and Biological Monitoring is looking for knowledgeable people to review the coverage for errors as well as populate it with additional information. Please contact Leigh Lager at 609-292-0427 or [llager@dep.state.nj.us](mailto:llager@dep.state.nj.us) for more information.

## **Improving Our Watersheds Through Action Now:**

### ***The Raritan Nonpoint Source Forum***

Join us for a seminar highlighting watershed restoration projects along with other nonpoint source pollution projects within the Raritan Region. Learn about streambank stabilization, watershed education projects, integrated crop management, and riparian restoration.

This forum will not only highlight projects that have been done in this region, but will feature the success and failures that occurred throughout the duration of the projects. In addition, there will be a representative present from the NJDEP who will discuss the future of the 319 program and answer questions regarding application procedures.

Since 1995, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection has been identifying projects to mitigate nonpoint source pollution and to educate stakeholders on solutions to improve water quality within their watersheds. This forum will not only report on projects funded through section 319(h) of the Federal Clean Water Act, but will also encourage the audience members to think about how these projects could be implemented in their own communities.

#### ***Who should attend?***

Stormwater Professionals, Engineers, Consultants, Health Officers, Planning Officials, Environmental Commissions, Mayors & Council members, Environmental Educators, Watershed Associations, and Concerned Citizens.

#### ***Where is the Raritan Region?***

The Raritan Region includes 1,280 square miles of land in Central New Jersey spanning from just west of Spruce Run Reservoir in Clinton, to the NY/NJ Harbor Estuary in the east.

This Region includes parts of Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Somerset, and Union Counties. 136 Municipalities have all or some land within this land area. The major drainage basins include: Rahway River, Elizabeth River, South Branch Raritan River, North Branch Raritan River, the Mainstem Raritan River, South River, Lawrence Brook, Matchaponix Brook, Manalapan River, Millstone River, Stony Brook, and Beden Brook.

The workshop will take place on May 15th from 9 AM to 3 PM at Middlesex Community College, Edison NJ. The cost is \$25 per person. To register call Cook College Office of Continuing Professional Education at 732-932-9271.

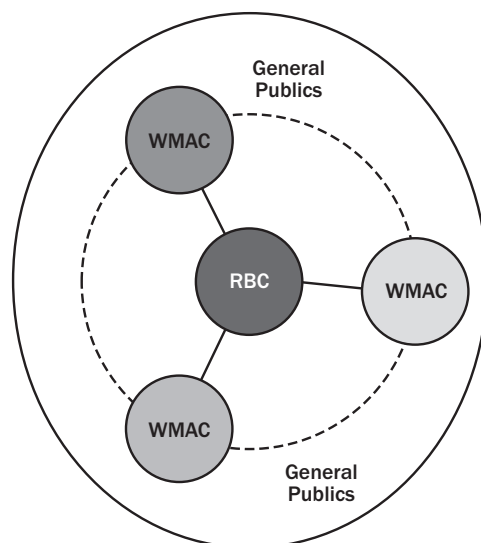
# A New Structure for the Raritan Basin Project

by Jennifer Gurdak, Division of Watershed Management, Raritan Bureau

In the latter part of 2000, the Raritan Basin Project moved into the planning phase of creating a watershed management plan for watershed management areas (WMAs) 8, 9 and 10. Through February 20, 2001 four public meetings were held in the Basin and 2 workgroups were formed, Organizing for Action and Issues in the Basin. As part of the former, a structure was created under which the project will move forth.

It was agreed to via a consensus approach that there would be a WMA Committee for each of the 3 WMA areas within the Basin; the N & S Branch Raritan, the Lower Raritan, and the Millstone which correspond to WMAs 8, 9, and 10 respectively. Membership to these committees is open to anyone interested in participating. Although each will likely address some unique issues during the creation of the management plan, there is sure to be overlap among the three. Thus, a coordinating entity was formed that will be known from hereon as the Raritan Basin Council. The workgroup outlined interests that should be represented on the Council and project staff has worked to fill these slots. The only seat still vacant (without even an interim representative) is that of the construction industry representative. A Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is currently being formed which will advise the aforementioned groups as issues arise that need professional input. Finally, there will be an Evaluation Committee that will offer insight on the progress and direction of the project.

To date, the first round of meetings has been held for all of the WMA Committees and the Raritan Basin Council. Time was spent getting to know the participants, as they will be working together for the next 2 years. One of the main agenda items was the selection of leadership for all committees. In addition, the Committees were tasked with selecting two representatives to the Raritan Basin Council. A list of May meetings follows:



## **WMA 8**

North and South Branch Raritan River  
WMA Committee  
May 23rd, 6:30- 8:30  
Pre-meeting session at 5:45  
for new participants  
Fiddler's Elbow Country Club  
Bedminster, NJ

## **WMA10**

Millstone WMA Committee  
May 8th, 6:30-8:30  
Pre-meeting session at 5:45  
for new participants  
Mercer County Library  
-West Windsor Branch  
Princeton Junction, NJ

## **Raritan Basin Council**

May 22nd, 3-5:30  
Elizabethtown Water Canal Road  
Treatment Plant  
Bound Brook, NJ  
For more information  
please contact  
Sally Kean at 732-356-9344

If you would prefer to serve on the TAC, please contact Sally Kean at 732-356-9344 or by email at [skean@raritanbasin.org](mailto:skean@raritanbasin.org). For more information on the next WMA 9 meeting, please contact Jenn Gurdak at 609-633-7020. Some of the areas in need of expertise are biology, economy, legal, hydrology, water quality, communications and funding.

For more information or copies of meeting minutes and announcements, and all Project documents please visit the project website at [www.raritanbasin.org](http://www.raritanbasin.org) or call 732-356-9344.



*The Central Delaware WMA includes portions of 24 towns in 3 counties. See related article on page 5.*

**May is Watershed Awareness Month**

**Visit our website  
for events in your watershed!**

**[www.state.nj.us/dep/watershedmgt](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/watershedmgt)**

## **SUBCHAPTER 8 WORKSHOPS IN JUNE**

Three workshops on new Subchapter 8 (7:15-8) of the Water Quality Management Planning Rules have been scheduled for June. These workshops will provide attendees with an overview of the rules, information on new procedures and guidance on environmental assessments. The workshop schedule is:

**JUNE 19th**

**@ Centenary College in Hackettstown**

**JUNE 20th**

**@ Mercer County College**

**JUNE 27th**

**@ Stockton College**

For more information, please call the DWM at 609-633-3812. For registration, please call the Cook College Office of Continuing Professional Education at 732-932-9271.

Subchapter 8 became effective on March 20th. These rules require new development using septic systems undergo the same environmental assessments as proposed new sewer service areas. A courtesy copy of the rules and pertinent fact sheets are available on the DWM website at [www.state.nj.us/dep/watershedmgt](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/watershedmgt)

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